

Consideration of Draft Delta Plan Amendment for Refinement of the Performance Measures

Summary: Staff will discuss a draft of the refined performance measures to be included in the Delta Plan Amendment for Refinement of the Performance Measures (Performance Measures Amendment); summarize input from a March 9, 2017 public workshop; seek Council and public input; and describe next steps.

Background

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 requires the Delta Plan to include performance measures that enable the Council to track progress in meeting the objectives of the Delta Plan. These performance measures are to be based on the best available scientific information, and include quantitative or other “measurable assessments of the status and trends” of the health of the Delta, as well as the reliability of the state’s water supply exported from the Sacramento and San Joaquin river watersheds (Water Code sections 85211 and 85308).

When adopted by the Council in May 2013, the Delta Plan included an initial suite of performance measures (159 total) organized by Delta Plan goal and strategy. There are three types of performance measures: 1) administrative performance measures (118) used to track various actions recommended by the Delta Plan; 2) output performance measures (21) used to track results of administrative actions; and 3) outcome measures (20) included for tracking the impacts of those actions.

As stated on page 46 the Delta Plan, the initial set of performance measures were to be refined after adoption of the Delta Plan and considered for inclusion in subsequent updates of the Delta Plan. The refinement of the initial performance measures was to be conducted through a multi-year, stakeholder-inclusive effort with special emphasis on “outcome” and “output” measures.

Initial Refinement of the Delta Plan’s Performance Measures

Since adoption of the Delta Plan in May 2013, the Council has made significant progress in assessing and refining the full set of Delta performance measures (i.e., administrative, output, and outcome performance measures) and initiating performance reporting. As part of the process described below, all refinements to the Delta Plan’s performance measures were developed in coordination with or reviewed by the Delta Lead Scientist and Delta Science Program staff to ensure appropriate metrics and the incorporation of best available science and information.

In December 2013, staff reported to the Council that a full assessment of the performance measures was underway. During 2014, staff reported to the Council on interim project status in July and returned again in December to provide a detailed report on the

administrative measures and select output measures. In August 2015, staff provided a complete assessment of all 160 performance measures. Following that report, planning and science program staff initiated a process to refine the output and outcome performance measures. The administrative performance measures will be reviewed as part of the five-year review of the Delta Plan.

In October 2015, proposed refinements to the output and outcome performance measures were provided to 65 external subject matter experts representing State, local, and federal agencies and stakeholders who were invited to review and comment on them. A public workshop was held on Nov. 9, 2015, to review the draft and to solicit input from stakeholders and the public. Immediately following the December 2015 Council meeting, a second public comment period ran from Dec. 21, 2015 to Jan. 22, 2016.

In January 2016, staff briefed the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB) on the methodology and process used to refine existing performance measures and develop new ones, and requested their review of this methodology. The Delta ISB responded with a letter that was supportive of staff's approach to refining the Delta Plan performance measures with a few suggested improvements. The Delta ISB's suggestions were addressed by staff in the February 2016 report to the Council.

In February 2016, the Council adopted a refined suite of output and outcome performance measures, bringing the total number of output and outcome performance measures in the Delta Plan to a total of 37. This amendment also consolidated all performance measures into Appendix E of the Delta Plan.

Current Efforts to Further Refine the Delta Plan's Performance Measures

Since the Council's adoption of a refined suite of output and outcome performance measures, staff has continued to work on refining them in the following ways:

- Data Sheets – Following adoption, staff completed detailed data sheets for each performance measure. A data sheet details all aspects of a performance measure including the data sources, assessment methodology, and key references.
- Further Performance Measure Refinement – Based on public comments received and current amendment development (i.e., Conveyance, Storage Systems, and the Operation of Both and the Delta Levees Investment Strategy), staff began further refining the output and outcome performance measures following their February 2016 adoption.
- Request for Delta ISB Review – In January 2017, staff requested the Delta ISB to perform an in-depth review of a subset of high-priority output/outcome performance measures. The Delta ISB instead suggested that it would be more appropriate for local subject matter experts to provide a more robust review of the performance measures (see Delta ISB response in Attachment 2).

- External Subject Matter Expert Review of High Priority Performance Measures – Based on the Delta ISB's recommendations, staff contracted with external subject matter experts to review a subset of high priority performance measures. In February 2017, a set of 10 high-priority performance measures (Attachment 1) was delivered to external subject matter experts for review.
- Workshop on Proposed Refinements – A public workshop was held on March 9, 2017 to review proposed changes to the performance measures and to solicit input from stakeholders and the public. The interested members of the public had the option to provide comments through email, an online forum tool, in person, and in writing.

Summary of Proposed Performance Measures Amendment

As a result of the post-February 2016 evaluation process described above, staff has identified 34 performance measures for further refinement. For half of these, staff proposes significant changes, while for the remainder staff recommends only minor clarifications. (Please see Table 1 for a complete list of proposed changes.)

TABLE 1

Proposed Changes to Performance Measures (PMs) by Reference Number

17 PMs with significant refinements

Chapter 3. A More Reliable Water Supply:

- 3.4, 3.6, 3.8, 3.9

Chapter 4. Protect, Restore and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem:

- 4.2, 4.4, 4.10

Chapter 5. Protect and Enhance the Delta's Unique Values:

- 5.2, 5.5

Chapter 6. Improve Water Quality:

- 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 6.7, 6.10

Chapter 7. Reduce Risks to People, Property, and State Interests:

- 7.2, 7.3, 7.7

16 PMs reworded for clarification

Chapter 3. A More Reliable Water Supply:

- 3.1, 3.2

Chapter 4. Protect, Restore and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem:

- 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.11

Chapter 5. Protect and Enhance the Delta's Unique Values:

- 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9

Chapter 6. Improve Water Quality:

- 6.3, 6.5, 6.8, 6.9

1 PM combined with another

Chapter 6. Improve Water Quality:

- 6.11 was combined with 4.10 in Chapter 4

3 PMs no refinements recommended

Chapter 7. Reduce Risks to People, Property, and State Interests:

- 7.1, 7.5, 7.6

Attachment 1 includes staff's recommended performance measure revisions in redline, as compared to the current (i.e., February 2016) version of Appendix E of the Delta Plan; it is organized by Delta Plan chapter and the strategies within each chapter. Key information related to each performance measure includes:

- Delta Plan strategies tracked by the specific performance measure
- Type of performance measure (e.g., output or outcome)
- Existing Delta Plan performance measure language with staff-recommended changes in redline
- Metric, baseline or reference point, and target

Today's Briefing

For today's briefing, staff will present a discussion draft of the refined performance measures to be included in the Performance Measures Amendment; highlight comments received from the public and external subject matter experts; and request input from the Council and the public.

Next Steps

Anticipated next steps for this effort include:

1. Staff completes collection and analysis of public comments and external subject matter expert review (March – April 2017).
2. Staff conducts California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping meeting on proposed Delta Plan amendments (i.e., Delta Levee Investment and Risk Reduction Strategy; Conveyance, Storage Systems, and the Operation of Both; and Performance Measures) on March 24, 2017.
3. Staff summarizes public comment (including CEQA scoping comments) and external subject matter expert review; presents revised version of the Performance Measures Amendment to the Council in response to this input; and requests that the Council vote on the project description for the proposed Amendment in order to give staff direction in April 2017 regarding how to proceed with environmental review. If this occurs, the Council vote in April 2017 will be to direct staff to analyze the draft revised performance measures in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), discussed in the next step, as the proposed project under CEQA.
4. The Performance Measures Amendment will be included in the draft EIR that will be prepared for all of the proposed Delta Plan amendments (i.e., Delta Levee Investment and Risk Reduction Strategy; Conveyance, Storage Systems, and the Operation of Both; and Performance Measures).
5. Following scoping, the next formal steps in the CEQA process is the release of the Draft EIR for public review and comment, a hearing to take comments on the Draft EIR during the comment period, and preparing a Final EIR that includes responses to comments.

6. Council certifies the EIR, and adopts the Performance Measures Amendment.
7. Throughout the process, staff would provide regular updates to the Council and stakeholders.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Redline Version of Proposed Performance Measures Compared against February 2016 Adopted Version

Attachment 2: Delta ISB's Response Letter to Performance Measures Presentation at January 2017 Delta ISB Meeting

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